EXHIBIT 36
DATE 3/10/11
HB 456

MAR 09 2011

To:      Montana Senate

From:  Steve McKelvy

Re:      HB 456 – relative to PPMT

My name is Steve McKelvy. I am a counselor at Laurel Middle School. We provide a Teen Awareness program for 8th graders each year before they transition to the high school. I believe knowledge is power and enables the individual to make better choices. Our program is preventative and informational in nature. Topics covered are: Apprenticeships, Health Careers, Cancer-Skin and Tobacco, Self Defense, Cyber Bullying-Technology Abuse, Teen Dating-Healthy Relationships, CPR-Heimlich Maneuver, and Teen Pregnancy – STIs.

The Teen Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infections program has been provided by PPMT. They have been very "level oriented" with their program content as it relates to 8th graders. The reality is that today's teens are, through various forms of the media and consumer advertizing, exposed to a variety of behaviors and experiences of a sexual nature. The reality is that developmentally, teens are inclined to experiment and try new things as they grow up. Inherent in this is trial and sometimes error.

I think PPMT has been very effective in delivering a simple message. Sexual behaviors occur with teens. There are consequences connected to these behaviors. Pregnancy and infections and disease are the most serious. The long-term effects of pregnancy are covered, monetary and personal commitment and responsibility. The effects of unprotected sex are covered as infections are shown to become widespread. Alternatives are presented with abstinence being the obvious choice for teens. The use of protection is also covered to prevent pregnancy and infections.

I feel the presenters have always done a simple but effective job, providing a clear, complete message for the students, for their maturity and developmental levels. They have always been well received. I think the information can only help them make better future choices. I will continue to have them be part of our Teen Awareness program

Sincerely,   Steve McKelvy